

5 **Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for containing cargo during a hull breach on a ship, comprising:
a non-permeable flexible bladder having a top surface, a side surface, and a bottom surface
mounted within said ship in which said cargo is disposed; and a skeleton surrounding at least a
10 portion of the side and bottom surfaces of said bladder and being in proximity to said flexible
bladder, comprised of a plurality of relatively moveable elements for supporting said flexible
bladder, said skeleton being flexible and conformable to a shape of said flexible bladder, said
skeleton being a layer within a first laminated structure comprising:
 - a) a first belted ballistic cover;
 - 15 b) an oxygen scavenger; and
 - c) a second belted ballistic cover.
2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, including in addition thereto, a second laminated
structure on or near the top surface of said ship and in proximity to the top surface of said
bladder, said second laminated structure comprising:
 - 20 a) a first metallic layer;
 - b) a first belted ballistic cover;
 - c) an oxygen scavenger;
 - d) a second belted ballistic cover; and
 - e) a second metallic layer.
25 3. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first and/or said second ballistic covers
comprise Kevlar belted fabric.
4. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen scavenger comprises powdered

5 sodium bicarbonate.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said first and/or said second metallic layers comprise steel.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the oxygen scavenger of said second laminated structure comprises powdered sodium bicarbonate.

10 7. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said first and/or said second ballistic covers of said second laminated structure comprise Kevlar belted fabric.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of relatively moveable elements comprise metallic links.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of relatively moveable elements 15 comprise metallic plates.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising interconnecting links mounted to said metallic plates.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising: a pressure sensitive valve secured to said non-permeable flexible bladder, said pressure sensitive valve being operable to open to release 20 said cargo in response to a sudden increase in pressure in said non-permeable bladder due to said hull breach.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising: a plurality of tanks each being much smaller than said flexible bladder, said pressure sensitive valve releasing said cargo into said plurality of tanks.

25 13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of tanks is expandable.

14. The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising: a header for receiving said cargo from said pressure sensitive valve responsive to said hull breach.

5 15. The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising: at least one expandable tank for receiving
said cargo from said pressure sensitive valve responsive to said hull breach.